



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## How will Upper Mississippi River flooding affect the New Orleans area?

*Answer: Don't blink or you might miss it*

NEW ORLEANS – Water flooding the Mississippi River's upper valley, in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, will eventually make its way to Louisiana.

So the questions keep coming, how will it affect New Orleans? The answer – which was also true for 1993's Upper Mississippi flood – is not much.

"The Lower Mississippi is simply a bigger river, which gets most of its flow from the Ohio-Tennessee river system," said Burnell Thibodeaux, chief of hydraulics and hydrology for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans.

Flow today was 630,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at New Orleans, and that's 150,000 cfs below the average for this time of year. The April record exceeded 1.5 million cfs, including 250,000 diverted through the Bonnet Carré Spillway into Lake Pontchartrain.

Meanwhile, the Upper Mississippi was cresting today at 268,000 cfs at Prairie du Chien, Wis., just below its confluence with the Wisconsin River. This is well above the average flow of 94,000 for this date.

"If we got every drop of the difference, it would bring us up roughly to normal flow. So this flow presents no challenges for our flood-control system," Thibodeaux said.

Today's stage was 7.4 feet above sea level at New Orleans. Flood stage is 17.0 feet and the levees protect the city to 20.0 feet.

**Bonnet Carré Spillway** <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/bcarre/bcarre.htm>

### Lower Mississippi River stages

[http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/eng/edhd/edhh\\_3.txt](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/eng/edhd/edhh_3.txt) (if Web site is typed in, remember to use underline\_ before the 3.)